

TRINITY NEWS

Strategic Relationship and the Final Judgment

We invest or put a large premium on 'strategic relationships'. A common example: we don't mind spending a lot of time and resources to the person we are willing to spend the rest of our life with. Another is, we don't look at our wrist watch when we are with our boss (or at least we don't show him/her). This means some relationships are more important to us than others.

What if we learn that a relationship with some group of people would spell eternity? Yes, eternal life. How much time, effort and resources are we willing to invest with them? Today's passage teaches some principles about this strategic relationship.

At the end of time, also called the final judgment, the Son of Man will come as King and all angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne and the people of all nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. In that manner, the sheep goes to his right side and the goats to his left. Then the sentence will be pronounced, those on the right receive their inheritance- the kingdom prepared for them since the creation of the world, the place where God rule with all his angels. After which, the sentence is pronounce to those on his left- condemnation and the destination where the Devil and his angels will go to suffer forever. The explanation that follows after each sentence is that the King was in particular situation: hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick and imprisoned- and their response match the corollary.

A striking point is that it seems both groups are surprised when they asked the question of when their fateful action or abandon happened (at least before they face their fate). Then the King told them something no one would expect- His judgment is based on their response (even) to the least of his 'brothers' when they are in those mentioned situation.

The Trinity is the best symbol of community. Growing in faith happens in the context of the church. One can receive Jesus by him/herself, but no one can practice Christianity on his/her own. We practice Christianity by being with the body of Christ. Jesus in this parable of the last judgment tells us that the right way to get right with The King is to be in right relationship even to the least of his brothers. The principle is given in chapter 10:40-42, "and if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple" according to Jesus, "will certainly not lose his reward".

And in fulfilling our mission in the world we encounter others along the way. Those, whom we do not know, people in need who are on their own faith expedition (Rom. 2:7-15). How do we relate with them? Do we consider them part of our own journey? Do we pray as we see their struggle that may be harder than ours? Do we try to spend some time with them in difficult situations like those mentioned in the passage? We can start again, maybe by acknowledging some good examples we see around or a life testimony that encourages us to change and develop some strategic relationship.

Fr. Melvin Bautista

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, November 26.

- Bible study, 10:00am

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: *First Sunday in Advent (Year B)*

Isaiah 64:1-9a; Psalm 80

1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Mark 13:33-37

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 14. Lessons and Carols, 7:30pm
